

# Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

*For people with developmental disabilities and those who support them*

## What is the DDA?

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) provides services and supports for children and adults of all ages with developmental disabilities.

A developmental disability is a severe chronic disability other than a sole diagnosis of mental illness that arises before age 22 and makes it impossible to live independently without support. For more information, see the DDA website under "About DDA." A person may have a developmental disability and also have a mental illness. There are many kinds of developmental disabilities. Some examples are intellectual disability, autism and cerebral palsy.

DDA home and community-based services are based on individual needs and preferences and include support staff, help to find and keep a job, respite care, home modifications, assistive technology, behavioral and/or other support. A person can have these support services in their own home, a home they share with others or in a home owned by service provider agencies.



Once a person begins getting DDA services, services will continue as long as the person meets DDA eligibility requirements. The type of services changes with the person's needs and wishes. **Visit [dda.health.maryland.gov](http://dda.health.maryland.gov) for more information.**

## Who Is Eligible for DDA Services?

Eligibility for DDA services depends on a person's disability, needs and financial eligibility. An eligible person:

- Has a developmental disability and is unable to live independently without support,
- Needs the level of services that DDA provides,
- Has a disability determination from the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program and
- Is eligible for a type of Medicaid, called a Medicaid Waiver. DDA's Medicaid Waiver has higher income eligibility limits than the Maryland Medical Assistance (Medicaid) program for health care and has no limits on the income of the family of minor children.

## Which Eligible People Get DDA Services?

DDA does not have enough money to serve everyone who is eligible. Typically, DDA is able to serve eligible people who are:

- In crisis situations as defined by DDA,
- Leaving nursing facilities or other institutions, or
- Youth between ages 21 and 22.

Sometimes, DDA may have additional funding for people on the waiting list.

If funding is not available, DDA will place the person on a waiting list. For more information, check with your DDA regional office.



## How Do People Plan for the Services they Need?

After DDA finds that a person is eligible and there is funding available, a Coordinator of Community Services will help the person choose members of a team that will make a person centered plan.

The team will consider:

- What kind of life does the person want?
- What services are necessary to ensure the person’s needs are met in a way the person wants?
- How the person can get some or all of the needed services from other sources than DDA, for example, from family and friends, public transit, Medical Assistance services, private health care, Medicare, the school system, or the Division of Rehabilitation Services? *For more detail, see the “DDA: Coordinators of Community Services” fact sheet*
- What does the person need that DDA can fund? *For more detail, see the “DDA: Your Person Centered Plan” fact sheet*

## What are DDA’s Different Services?

DDA provides funding through three different programs

called “Medicaid Waiver Programs.” Each one is funded with state and federal funding and includes specific services that eligible individuals can access based on an approved person-centered plan:

- **Family Supports Waiver:** provides services to eligible children under age 22 years and their families. Includes respite care, personal supports, home modifications, technology and other services. The funding limit is \$12,000 per year.
- **Community Supports Waiver:** provides a wide range of services including day, employment and support services for all ages. Does not include residential services. The funding limit is \$25,000 per year.
- **Community Pathways Waiver:** provides a wide range of services including residential, day, employment and support services. This waiver does not have a funding cap.

A person enters a waiver according to the types and amount of services he or she needs.

Contact your CCS or a DDA regional office for more information about services available through each waiver, or go to DDA’s website.

## How Can a Person Apply for DDA Services?

To get an application in English or Spanish, you can call your regional DDA office. You can also look online at [dda.dhmf.maryland.gov](http://dda.dhmf.maryland.gov).

Region	Contact information	Address
<b>Central Maryland</b> Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Baltimore City	(410) 234-8200 TDD: (410) 363-9430 Toll Free: 1-877-874-2494	1401 Severn Street Baltimore, MD 21230
<b>Eastern Shore</b> Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester	(410) 572-5920 TDD Line: 1-800-735-2258 Toll Free: 1-888-219-0478	926 Snow Hill Road, Cottage 100 Salisbury, MD 21804
<b>Southern Maryland</b> Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George’s, St. Mary’s	(301) 362-5100 TDD: (301) 362-5131 Toll Free: 1-888-207-2479	312 Marshall Avenue, 7th Floor Laurel, MD 20707
<b>Western Maryland</b> Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Washington	(301) 791-4670 MD Relay: 1-800-735-2258 Toll Free: 1-888-791-0193	1360 Marshall Street Hagerstown, MD 21740

If you still have questions about this information or need assistance finding other disability resources, contact the Resource Finder at Kennedy Krieger by phone or email:

800-390-3372 • TTY MD Relay 711 • [resourcefinder@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:resourcefinder@kennedykrieger.org)

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